

Annotation

This diploma thesis examines the theoretical concept of Europeanization in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. The ambition of this thesis is to compare the relative levels of Europeanisation in the field of justice and home affairs in Moldova and Ukraine and then place it in the context of the Russian aggression. The aim of this thesis is to determine whether both countries were sufficiently Europeanised prior to receiving candidate status, or whether this EU move was solely a reaction to Russian aggression. Europeanisation theory was chosen because it examines a process that is crucial for EU accession. In this case, it was defined as the degree of approximation of national legislations to the EU acquis in the field of justice and home affairs. The integration process is a natural response of states to external threats, but also an opportunity for economic integration and shared prosperity. This thesis therefore examines the motivations, but also the obstacles, that shape the bilateral relations between the EU and the countries aspiring to EU membership. Last but not least, it places the results of the analytical part of the thesis in a broader context and subjects them to a critical discussion in order to determine whether the granting of candidate status to Moldova and Ukraine was an isolated EU action or whether these countries are already sufficiently Europeanised.